

What if I have an existing hydrant with a below ground drain?



Unless you are installing a new hydrant, the plumbing inspector will not require that you replace an existing hydrant that has a below ground drain.

However,

all hose connections must be protected with an approved hose connection vacuum breaker.



You can tell if a hose connection vacuum breaker is approved by checking for ASSE 1011 or 1052 on the device and for an approved seal.

Department of Commerce
Safety and Buildings Division
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Protect Your Water

Yard Hydrants

in Wisconsin



Know what yard hydrants are code compliant in Wisconsin.

It can save you time, money, aggravation and possibly save you and your family from health problems.

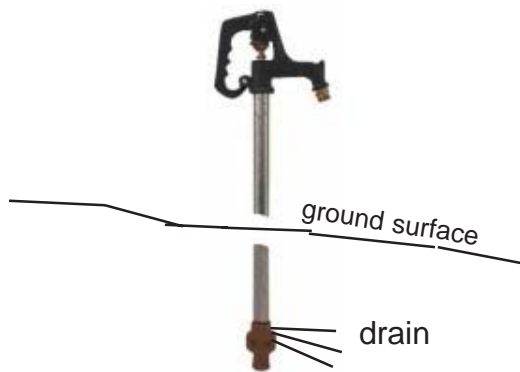


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S. Comm 82.40 (8) (e) 2., Wisconsin Administrative Code prohibits the installation of a yard hydrant with a below ground discharge. The code reads:

“Stop and waste-type control valves may not be installed underground.”

This type of hydrant, with a below ground discharge is popular because of the ease of operation and the relative low cost.



The plunger (control valve) is located below the frost line. When the handle is lifted water enters the riser and flows through the head. A drain at the same level as the plunger allows water in the riser and the head to drain each time the handle is lowered. This draining action prevents freezing temperatures from causing the water in the hydrant riser or head to expand and burst the device. If a hose connected to the hydrant without a hose connection vacuum breaker were submerged in a barrel, the entire contents of the barrel could be siphoned through the drain port and could contaminate the groundwater or even your drinking water supply.

*If you have further questions, please check the Commerce website at:
www.commerce.state.wi.us
or
contact your local plumbing inspector
or
contact one of the consultants listed below.*



District #	Name	Phone/fax
1	Tim Joyce	608-235-0557/608-283-7454
4	Jim Zickert	920-948-7336/608-283-7453
5	Jim Wehinger	608-339-7430/608-339-8076
6	Don Hough	715-634-4804/608-283-7451
7	Tom Braun	715-340-5387/608-283-7455
8	Don Oremus	715-584-2007/608-283-7452

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What does an approved yard hydrant look like?



There's no "one" answer for a code-compliant yard hydrant. Many manufacturers produce models that are code compliant. When you buy a hydrant, make sure that it has an approved hose connection vacuum breaker and does not include an underground drain.

And if you install a hose connection vacuum breaker on a yard hydrant make sure you loosen it during the winter to prevent freezing conditions from bursting the hydrant.

If you find a model that you have questions about, contact the department or your local plumbing inspector.